

tion 23.51 [of this code]. The rules, before taking effect, must be approved by *the comptroller with the review and counsel of the Department of Agriculture* [a majority vote of a committee comprised of the following officials or their designees: the governor, the comptroller, the attorney general, the agriculture commissioner, and the Commissioner of the General Land Office].

SECTION 2. Section 23.73(b), Tax Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The comptroller by rule shall develop and distribute to each appraisal office appraisal manuals setting forth this method of appraising qualified timber land, and each appraisal office shall use the appraisal manuals in appraising qualified timber land. The comptroller by rule shall develop and the appraisal office shall enforce procedures to verify that land meets the conditions contained in Section 23.72 [of this code]. The rules, before taking effect, must be approved by *the comptroller with the review and counsel of the Texas A&M Forest Service* [majority vote of a committee comprised of the following officials or their designees: the governor, the comptroller, the attorney general, the agriculture commissioner, and the Commissioner of the General Land Office].

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect January 1, 2018.

Passed the Senate on March 27, 2017: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 4, 2017: Yeas 143, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Approved May 18, 2017.

Effective January 1, 2018.

## ABOLISHMENT OF THE STATE COUNCIL ON COMPETITIVE GOVERNMENT AND THE TRANSFER OF ITS FUNCTIONS TO THE COMPTROLLER

### CHAPTER 24

S.B. No. 706

#### AN ACT

relating to the abolishment of the State Council on Competitive Government and the transfer of its functions to the comptroller.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 662.0071(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A state agency shall accept the balance of compensatory time accrued under Section 662.007 by a state employee who transfers to that agency from another state agency if the employee transfers as a direct result of:

[(1)] the legislature's transfer of legal authority or duties from the agency that formerly employed the employee to the agency that currently employs the employee;   
or

[(2)] a requirement of the State Council on Competitive Government for the agency that formerly employed the employee to bid a commercially available service that the agency previously performed].

SECTION 2. Sections 2054.131(b) and (d), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) If the *department* [State Council on Competitive Government] and the Legislative Budget Board each determine that a cost savings may be realized through a private vendor selected under this section, the *department* [State Council on Competitive Government] may implement a project that establishes a common electronic infrastructure through which each state agency, including any retirement system created by statute or by the constitution, shall:

(1) require its work site benefits plan participants to electronically:

- (A) enroll in any work site benefits plans provided to the person by the state or a state agency;
  - (B) add, change, or delete benefits;
  - (C) sign any payroll deduction agreements to implement a contribution made to a plan in which the participant enrolls;
  - (D) terminate participation in a voluntary plan;
  - (E) initiate account investment changes and withdrawals in a retirement plan;
  - (F) obtain information regarding plan benefits; and
  - (G) communicate with the plan administrator; and
- (2) administer its work site benefits plans electronically by using the project to:
- (A) enroll new plan participants and, when appropriate, terminate plan participation;
  - (B) generate eligibility and enrollment reports for plan participants;
  - (C) link plan administration with payroll administration to facilitate payroll deductions for a plan;
  - (D) facilitate single-source billing arrangements between the agency and a plan provider; and
  - (E) transmit and receive information regarding the plan.

(d) If the *department* ~~[State Council on Competitive Government]~~ implements an electronic infrastructure project under this section, the *department* ~~[State Council on Competitive Government]~~ shall select and contract with a single private vendor to implement the project. The contract must require the application of the project to all state agencies without cost to the state until the project is initially implemented.

SECTION 3. Section 2171.104(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The office of vehicle fleet management~~], as directed by the State Council on Competitive Government,~~ shall develop a management plan with detailed recommendations for improving the administration and operation of the state's vehicle fleet.

SECTION 4. Section 32.0461, Human Resources Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(a) ~~The [In consultation and coordination with the State Council on Competitive Government, the]~~ commission shall seek competitive bids for the claims processing function of the vendor drug program.

(c) The commission may award a contract under this section to another person only if the *commission determines* ~~[department and the State Council on Competitive Government determine]~~ that the provision of services under that contract would be more cost-effective and the time to process claims under the contract would be the same as or faster than having employees of the commission continue to process claims.

(d) *The commission may consult with the comptroller in administering this section.*

SECTION 5. Sections 11.0255(b) and (c), Parks and Wildlife Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) In calculating the costs under Subsection (a), the department~~]:~~

~~[(1)]~~ shall consider both direct and indirect costs of department employees who perform project tasks~~]; and~~

~~[(2)] may use the cost accounting procedures and instructions developed by the State Council on Competitive Government under Section 2162.102, Government Code].~~

(c) On request, the *comptroller* ~~[State Council on Competitive Government]~~ shall provide technical assistance to the department~~], including assistance with the application of the council's cost accounting procedures and instructions].~~

SECTION 6. Section 223.042(d), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) The department shall consider all of its direct and indirect costs in determining the cost of providing the services. ~~[The department shall use the cost accounting procedures and instructions developed by the State Council on Competitive Government under Section 2162.102(c)(2), Government Code, in determining its cost. On request, the State Council on Competitive Government shall provide technical assistance to the department about the cost accounting procedures and instructions.]~~

SECTION 7. The following laws are repealed:

- (1) Section 161.037(b), Agriculture Code;
- (2) Chapter 236, Family Code;
- (3) Section 662.0071(c), Government Code;
- (4) Section 670.003, Government Code;
- (5) Chapter 2162, Government Code;
- (6) Section 2163.001(d), Government Code; and
- (7) Section 11.153(b), Parks and Wildlife Code.

SECTION 8. (a) On the effective date of this Act, the State Council on Competitive Government is abolished.

(b) The validity of an action taken by or in connection with the authority of the State Council on Competitive Government before the date the agency is abolished is not affected by the abolition.

SECTION 9. On the effective date of this Act:

- (1) all powers and duties of the State Council on Competitive Government are transferred to the comptroller;
- (2) a rule, form, policy, procedure, or decision of the State Council on Competitive Government continues in effect as a rule, form, policy, procedure, or decision of the comptroller until superseded by an act of the comptroller;
- (3) a reference in law to the State Council on Competitive Government means the comptroller;
- (4) any action or proceeding before the State Council on Competitive Government is transferred without change in status to the comptroller and the comptroller assumes, without a change in status, the position of the State Council on Competitive Government in any action or proceeding to which the State Council on Competitive Government is a party;
- (5) all money, contracts, leases, rights, bonds, and obligations of the State Council on Competitive Government are transferred to the comptroller;
- (6) all personal property, including records, in the custody of the State Council on Competitive Government becomes the property of the comptroller; and
- (7) all funds appropriated by the legislature to the State Council on Competitive Government are transferred to the comptroller.

SECTION 10. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

Passed the Senate on April 4, 2017: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 4, 2017: Yeas 143, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Approved May 18, 2017.

Effective September 1, 2017.